

of young women. The girls represented themselves and their county very well at the national competition in Orlando, Florida. I congratulate the students and their coaches on the national championship and I am proud to honor them before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING BRIAN HAYDEN UPON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE CITY OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Brian Hayden as he retires from the City of Buffalo. Brian's career with the City spanned over forty years.

Brian was born on February 8th, 1954 at Our Lady of Victory Hospital in Lackawanna, New York to his beloved parents John & Dorothy (Norton) Hayden. He has two siblings, Dennis and Susan.

Growing up, Brian graduated from Holy Family Grammar School in 1968, one of several Catholic schools in the close-knit community of South Buffalo. He went on to attend Father Baker High School, becoming Senior Class President for the class of 1972. Brian attended Brockport College.

Brian first worked as a pool attendant at the Boone Street Playground during the summer of 1973, transitioning into a rink guard at Cazenovia Ice Rink. The next year, he started as a Laborer with the Carpenters for the Buffalo Board of Education. In 1979 he became co-owner of the Ounce and a Half, a favorite neighborhood gathering spot on Abbott Road in South Buffalo.

In 1983 Brian became a Building Inspector for the City of Buffalo. As an inspector, he ensured structures were safe and compliant with local, state, and federal regulations. Working his way up through the ranks, in 1990 he moved to the role of Director of Building Safety & Health for the Buffalo Board of Education. In 1993 he began his service as the Director of Building Inspections for one year, continuing to serve as a Building Inspector afterwards.

A family man, Brian is married to Jean Ann Kalec, with whom he has 2 sons, Matthew and John. He is also known for his community involvement, and volunteers for many races, organizations, and groups. He is a founding member of the Connors, Kait, Harrity Memorial Race, which went on for twenty-five years. Brian won the prestigious Irishman of the Year award in 1995 and the St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioner of the Year in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor Brian Hayden upon the occasion of his well-deserved retirement. His service to the City of Buffalo and our community are worthy of recognition. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and a fulfilling, relaxing retirement.

U.S. LNG EXPORTS TO THE BLACK
SEA

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports.

U.S. LNG is of vital importance to our friends around the world, specifically those in the Black Sea.

Currently, our European allies are stuck in a struggle for energy independence from Russia.

More critically, the burgeoning democracies in Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania are largely dependent on Gazprom for their crucial gas supplies, and we are all well aware Russia is seeking to influence its neighbors' political process by threatening their gas supply.

American LNG could give Ukraine and the other Black Sea nations a real alternative.

In fact, there are Texas companies already engaged in negotiations with the Ukrainian state gas companies to build Ukraine's Black Sea LNG receiving terminal and supply U.S. LNG to Ukraine.

There exists a concern that an impediment to Ukraine receiving U.S. LNG is the uncertainty surrounding the passage of LNG tankers through the Bosphorus Straits.

Under the 1936 Montreux Convention, which controls how the Bosphorus Straits are to be used in peacetime, the LNG tanker issue should already be resolved.

Article 1 provides that "The High Contracting Parties recognize and affirm the principle of freedom of transit and navigation by sea in the Straits."

Article 2 states that "In time of peace, merchant vessels shall enjoy complete freedom of transit and navigation in the Straits, by day and by night, under any flag with any kind of cargo."

Even with the clear language of the Treaty, debate continues as to governmental authorities over the waters of the Bosphorus.

It is time to bring clarity to this important issue and open the Black Sea to U.S. LNG exports.

U.S. LNG exports will play an important role in the future of our allies.

It is my hope we can develop a reasonable, consensus approach to allow LNG to pass through the Bosphorus Straits.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS FELLED BY GUN
VIOLENCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sadness and a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the individuals in law enforcement who have fallen in the line of duty while serving and protecting their communities.

It is important to acknowledge that no one is immune from gun violence, including our law enforcement officers stepping in the line of danger to protect us.

While overall rates of officers killed by gun violence have declined over the years, we continue to see and hear about horrific cases of officers falling victim to gun violence.

Since 2005, shooting-related deaths account for approximately 37 percent of officer fatalities in the line of duty.

In the past five years, 259 police officers have died by gunfire across the nation.

Thirteen of those deaths were accidental.

Sadly, Texas had the highest number of fatalities, losing 12 officers in 2015.

This year, we have already lost nine officers to senseless gun violence across the nation in Utah, Oregon, Colorado, North Dakota, Ohio, Georgia, Mississippi and two in Maryland.

Five of these shootings occurred in just three days in February.

The recent incident that occurred on February 10, 2016, in Harford County, Maryland, accounting for two of five officers killed in less than a week is particularly alarming and egregious.

Senior Deputy Patrick Dailey and Senior Deputy Mark Logsdon of the Harford County Sheriff Department were killed upon approaching a troubled and wanted man in a local restaurant.

They were the first Harford County Sheriff's deputies to be shot and killed in the line of duty since 1899.

The suspect, who legally purchased the weapon used in shooting these officers, had a history of domestic violence including stalking and a suspected shooting of his estranged wife, substance abuse, and a criminal record including assault on an officer.

Awarded Medals of Honor, Deputy Dailey and Deputy Logsdon paid the ultimate sacrifice for responding to a call of need, and encountering an individual who should have never been in legal possession of a firearm.

Mr. Speaker, this tragic event highlights the desperate need for mental health and common sense gun reform in this country.

We do not need any more first tragedies for communities and law enforcement agencies, and we do not need to repeat history as this year sets a shocking pace for increased officer killings by gunfire.

There is no place in a civilized society for such senseless and preventable acts of violence in this country.

As Members of Congress we have a solemn obligation to pass legislation that improves the safety and respect between every law enforcement officer and the communities they serve to protect.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the fallen police officers in this nation.

HONORING MATTHEW PELKEY FOR
RECEIVING THE EMERGING BUSINESS
LEADER AWARD FROM
THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Matthew Pelkey as he is presented with the Emerging Business Leader Award by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. Matthew,